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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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28.08.2023

## *The great brave guerrillas by gringo procurement continue to complain that Ukrainian soldiers are cowards*

"Meanwhile, for the United States and its NATO allies, these 18 months of war have been a strategic gain, at a relatively low cost (apart from the Ukrainians). The West's most reckless antagonist has been shaken. NATO has become much stronger with the additions of Sweden and Finland. Germany has ceased to depend on Russian energy and, in many respects, has rediscovered its sense of values. NATO disputes make headlines, but overall, this has been a triumphant summer for the alliance." (David Ignatius, in the Washington Post)



*Speaking on condition of anonymity and from the safety of their offices, Western officials express disapproval of Ukrainians' aversion to dying.*

Amid continued news that the Ukrainian counteroffensive that began in June is not going as expected, *The New York Times* has published an article titled "Troop Deaths and Injuries in Ukraine War Near 500,000, U.S. Officials Say." according to U.S. officials.")



"Germans, although you are strong, you will not get Warsaw, better return to Berlin, while some of you are still alive." Poster of Vladimir Mayakovsky, Moscow, 1914

Reporting that Ukrainian efforts to retake Russian-occupied territory have been "bogged down in dense Russian minefields under constant artillery and helicopter gunfire," *The New York Times* reports that Ukrainian forces have shifted tactics to using "long-range artillery and missiles rather than plunging into minefields under fire."

Then the article gets really weird:

«U.S. officials worry that Ukraine's adjustments will wipe out precious ammunition supplies, which could benefit President Vladimir Putin of Russia and hurt Ukraine in a war of attrition. But Ukrainian commanders decided that the turn reduced casualties and preserved their frontline fighting force.

U.S. officials say they fear Ukraine has become casualty-resistant, one reason it has been cautious about pressing ahead with the counteroffensive. Almost any major offensive against entrenched Russian defenders protected by minefields would result in heavy casualties."

How, do US officials "fear" that Ukraine is becoming "casualty averse"? Why don't the safest tactics on the battlefield, which consume a lot of ammunition, swallow as many lives as the charge through a minefield under heavy artillery fire?

What are Ukrainians supposed to be? Docile in the face of casualties? If Ukraine were more prone to casualties, would it be more willing to throw young bodies into the gears of this proxy war that the U.S. empire actively provoked and for whose maintenance it killed the peace accords?

Something tells me that U.S. officials who speak to *The New York Times* about their "fear" of Ukrainian casualty aversion don't know what real fear is. Something tells me that if you marched these American officials through Russian minefields under constant artillery and helicopter gunfire, then they would understand what fear is.

Western officials have spent the past few weeks complaining to the media that Ukraine's inability to gain ground is due to an irrational aversion to dying. They have been criticizing Ukrainian cowardice before the press on condition of anonymity, from the safety of their offices.

In an article published Thursday titled "*U.S. Intelligence Says Ukraine Will Miss Key Offensive Target*," *The Washington Post* quoted anonymous "U.S. and Western officials" to report that the huge losses Ukraine has been suffering in this counteroffensive had been "*anticipated*" in war games in advance, but that they had "*anticipated it.*" *expected Kiev to accept the casualties as the cost of breaking through Russia's main defensive line.*"

In the same article, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba is quoted as telling critics of the counteroffensive to "*leave and join the foreign legion*" if they don't like the results obtained so far, adding: "*It's easy to say you want everything to be faster when you're not there.*"

In an article published last month under the title "*U.S. Cluster Munitions Arrive in Ukraine, but Impact on Battlefield Remains Unclear*," *The New York Times* reported that unnamed senior U.S. officials had "*privately expressed frustration*" that Ukrainian commanders "*fearing increased casualties among their ranks*" were opting for artillery barrages. "*Instead of continuing with Western tactics and pushing harder to break through Russian defenses.*"

"*Why don't they come and do it themselves?*" a former Ukrainian defense minister told *The New York Times* in response to the American criticism.

In an article last month titled "*Ukraine's Lack of Weaponry and Training Risks Stalemate in Fight With Russia*," *The Wall Street Journal* reported that unnamed Western military officials "*knew Kiev did not have all the training or weapons*" needed to dislodge Russia, but that they still "*hoped that Ukrainian courage and ingenuity would prevail.*"

"*It didn't,*" *The Wall Street Journal* added.

In the same article, *The Wall Street Journal* quoted a U.S. Army War College professor named John Nagle, who admitted that the U.S. would never attempt the kind of counteroffensive it has been pushing the Ukrainians to attempt.

*"The United States would never try to defeat a prepared defense without air superiority, but that [the Ukrainians] have no air superiority," Nagl said, adding: "It is impossible to overstate how important air superiority is to wage a ground battle with a reasonable cost in casualties."*

And now we're seeing reports in the media that U.S. officials, still under anonymity of course, are beginning to wonder if perhaps it would have been better to try to negotiate peace rather than launch this counteroffensive that they knew was doomed from the start.

In an article titled "*Milley Was Right*," *Politico* quotes several anonymous U.S. officials who claim that as "*the reality of the counteroffensive sinks into Washington*," empire officials are beginning to wonder whether they should have heeded outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley's suggestion in November that it was a good time to consider peace talks.

*"We may have missed an opportunity to push for earlier conversations," says an anonymous official, adding: "Milley was right."*

Wow, poor guys, it turns out they were wrong. But hey, it's just Ukrainian lives...

Imagine reading all this as a Ukrainian, especially as a Ukrainian who has lost a home or loved one in this war. I imagine white tears shed. I imagine anger and overwhelming frustration.

This whole war could have been avoided with a little diplomacy and mild concessions to Moscow. It could have stopped in the early weeks of the conflict, when an interim peace agreement had been reached. It could have stopped in November, before this catastrophic counteroffensive.

But it didn't. The U.S. intended to lock Moscow into a costly military quagmire with the goal of weakening Russia, and to this day U.S. officials openly boast about everything this war is doing to advance U.S. interests. So they've moved on, using Ukrainian bodies like a giant sponge to absorb as many expensive military explosives as possible to empty Russian coffers while advancing U.S. energy interests in Europe and keeping Moscow worried, while the empire orchestrates its next move against China.

Last month, David Ignatius of the *Washington Post* wrote an article explaining why Westerners shouldn't "*feel pessimistic*" about how things are going in Ukraine, writing the following about how much this war is benefiting U.S. interests abroad:

*"Meanwhile, for the United States and its NATO allies, these 18 months of war have been a strategic gain, at a relatively low cost (apart from the Ukrainians). The West's most reckless antagonist has been shaken. NATO has become much stronger with the additions of Sweden and Finland. Germany has ceased to depend on Russian energy and, in many respects, has rediscovered its sense of values. NATO disputes make headlines, but overall, this has been a triumphant summer for the alliance."*

*"Except for Ukrainians," he says, as a parenthetical paragraph...*

Everyone who has supported this horrible proxy war should tattoo that paragraph on their foreheads.

*Caitlin Johnstone, 19-8-2023*

*Original: [Big Brave Western Proxy Warriors Keep Whining That Ukrainian Troops Are Cowards](#)*

*Fountain: [Rafael Poch de Feliu](#)*

La Pluma.net 25.08.2023